Privatisation of mining of mineral sand

894. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware that the decision of the Kerala Government to privatise mining of mineral sand containing Monosite adversely affects internal security of the country;

(b) whether privatisation badly affects public sector companies such as IRE, KMML, TTP in Kerala;

(c) whether IRE-Chavara is associated with companies to form joint venture firm for making same product and what is the role of IRE in such association;

(d) whether any private or joint venture company in Kerala produce value added products; and

(e) whether the State Government has sought permission for mining under private sector at any time; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per the Government of India policy resolution of 06 October, 1998 on exploitation of Beach Sand Minerals which also contain monazite participation of Wholly Indian Owned Comapnies for mining and mineral separation, value addition to the products and integrated activities is permissible subject to fulfillment of certain conditions stipulated therein. Private mining of minerals containing monazite does not pose any threat to internal security of the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) IREL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s. Cochin Minerals & Rutile Ltd. (CMRL), Aluva, Kerala for a joint venture under the name of M/s. Kerala Rare Earths & Minerals Ltd. (KMML) for the separation of ilmenite and associated minerals from the beach sand resources of Chavara. The MoU *inter-alia* envisages 20% equity participation by IREL (to the tune of Rs. 8 crore). IREL shall be the sole agent for marketing the entire output of the joint venture operation. IREL shall also be providing the knowhow and technology for the separation of the minerals.

(d) CMRL, a private sector company produces synethetic rutile-value added product by beneficiating the mineral ilmenite.

(e) Yes, Sir. Since 01.04.2000, on the recommendation of the State Government of Kerala, approval has been conveyed in respect of four proposals for grant of mining lease for ilemenite, rutile, leucoxene, zircon, monazite and sillmanite in favour of M/s. Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd. for a period of thirty years.

Training and familiarisation programme for officials/doctors

895. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has instructed the atomic power stations to hold training and familiarisation programmes for district officials and doctors of Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, the number of such training and familiarisation programmes organised by various atomic power stations, so far, plant-wise;

(c) how far the Off-Site Emergency Exercises (OSEE) conducted recently by certain power stations could fulfil its objectives; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to impress upon the district administration the importance of good coordination among various agencies during any emergency or disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir, While reviewing the conduct of off-site emergency preparedness plans, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has asked atomic power stations to hold more frequent training and familiarisation programmes for district officials and doctors of State Health Department including those in primary health centres every year.

(b) The training programmes for medical professionals are conducted in a centralised manner. Nine (Five times in Mumbai, three times in Tarapur, Maharashtra and once in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu) times such programmes have been held. The training and familiarisation programme to District officials is conducted at all sites just before the off-site emergency exercise is planned which is one in two years.